

We should look good in:    [Report a bug!](#) © 1996-2019 CODOH.com | All Rights Reserved

 Search Codoh Site

[Login](#) [Become a volunteer](#)

THE CODOH NEWSLETTER

Privacy by  **SafeSubscribeSM**

For Email Newsletters you can trust

CONTRIBUTE

[Donate Now!](#)

[or find other ways to contribute »](#)

POPULAR ITEMS

[Frequently asked questions](#)

[Documentaries](#)

[Auditory](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

[Hadding Scott](#)

[..to follow](#)

[Home](#) / [Revisionist Personalities](#) / [Irving, David](#)

"Talking Frankly" about David Irving

A Critical Analysis of David Irving's Statement on the Holocaust

By [Hadding Scott](#)

Published: 2016-05-24

[previous](#)

Page 7 of 12

[next](#)

(3)

A letter to the chief physician of the SS, Ernst-Robert Grawitz, who had done a study of the causes of mortality in the concentration-camps, wherein Himmler inquires about the low incidence of cancer-mortality in the camps, David Irving reinterprets as a joke.

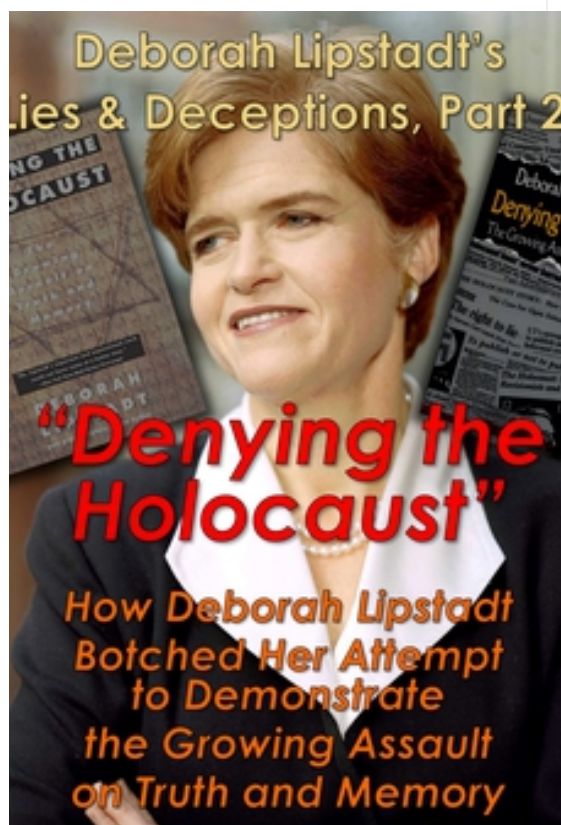
I doubt that the letter that Irving is calling a joke actually is a joke. On 11 April 2016 I asked Mr. Irving if there was another example of such a "joke," and where I could read the text of the letter. He said that he did not have time to give another example of such a joke, but that I could



[Report a problem](#)

[Read more »](#)

FEATURED DOCUMENTS

[« Previous](#)[Next »](#)

[The Lies and Deceptions of Deborah Lipstadt](#)

Deborah Lipstadt's claim to fame is her 1993 book *Denying the Holocaust* and the events it triggered. This video exposes her book as a collection of lies and deceptions.

[Read more »](#)

SEARCH THE LIBRARY

[Q Advanced Search](#)

find the Himmler-Grawitz letter in the book *Reichsführer!* by Helmut Heiber.

I found the text of the letter, and noticed that it included details that were incompatible with Irving's interpretation. Irving is arguing that the reason why none of the prisoners died of cancer was that they did not live to such an age, but Himmler's letter includes the premise that there were prisoners in that age-group:

"Besonders bemerkenswert ist diese Meldung, wenn man berücksichtigt, daß es nach dem Stand vom 20. 2. 1945 28 145 männliche und weibliche Häftlinge im Alter von über 50 Jahren gibt...."

"This report is especially noteworthy if one considers that, according to the tally of 20 February 1945, there are 28,145 male and female prisoners over 50 years of age...."

Thus, David Irving's interpretation of the Himmler-Grawitz letter as a sinister joke ceases to be tenable as soon as one knows all of what the letter says. Obviously he was hoping that nobody would check.

Irving compares his (mis)interpretation of the Himmler-Grawitz letter to a supposed explanation of what is known as the French paradox, i.e. the low incidence of heart-disease among French people. Irving claims that the low mortality from heart-disease is due to a high mortality from cirrhosis of the liver. That is an entertaining parable but it is not true. Although the occurrence of heart-disease among the French is relatively low, and the occurrence of

By Categories

About Revisionism and Historiography

- ▶ History in General
- ▶ World War I
- ▶ Between the Wars
- ▶ Third Reich Era
- ▶ World War II
- ▶ Holocaust + Final Solution
- ▶ Post WWII Revisionism
- ▶ (No) Freedom of Expression
- ▶ Judaica
- ▶ Revisionist Personalities
- ▶ Organizations
- ▶ News
- ▶ Reviews
- ▶ Helping CODOH
- ▶ Links
- ▶ Outreach
- ▶ Downloads
- ▶ Effects
- ▶ Periodicals
- ▶ Miscellaneous

By Authors

For News Items

By Posting Date

hepatic cirrhosis is relatively high, hepatic cirrhosis even among French people, affecting not more than .5% of the population (*The Burden of Liver Disease in Europe*, EASL, 2013, p. 10), is not nearly common enough to account for their low rate of heart-disease. David Irving certainly does not let truth get in the way of a good story.

(4)

Irving tells us that among the German documents held by the Hoover Institution are two reports, for 1942 and 1943, on the quantities of valuables confiscated ("loot," Irving calls it) from Jews under Operation Reinhardt ("a thieving operation," Irving calls it). Irving tries to parlay an inventory of confiscated wealth into evidence of mass-murder:

"And it makes very grisly reading. The two documents list all the watches, and fountain-pens, and gold coins, and everything that had been taken off all the people that had been passing through Operation Reinhardt.... Very interesting, because it gives you a pretty clear idea of people who no longer need their wristwatches and fountainpens and gold coins. Something is happening to them...."
(1:44:41 – 1:45:20)

The two pages were discussed during Irving's trial in 2000. It is not a fact explicitly stated in the source, but a mere inference, that the valuables were taken without specific justifications from Jews passing through the Reinhardt camps. The pages themselves

indicate that the valuables had been stolen by Jews ([Irving libel-suit, day 17](#)) before being taken back from the Jews, but Irving does not accept that.

There is also no indication that each wristwatch and fountainpen came from a different Jew. If they came from a relatively small number of Jews that had hoarded large quantities of valuables, that would be very different from what Irving portrays.

Be that as it may, Irving is certainly making too much of it. What is so "grisly" about an inventory of valuables? To call an inventory of valuables "grisly" is reminiscent of the way Auschwitz-believers have interpreted "masses of hair, piles of shoes and mounds of eyeglasses, artificial limbs, suitcases and baby clothes." ([Drusilla Menaker, AP, 19 February 1990](#)). David Irving certainly recognizes the fallacy of this kind of interpretation applied to Auschwitz, and he must therefore understand that he is committing the same sin in regard to Operation Reinhardt.

[previous](#)

Page 7 of 12

[next](#)

► [Additional information about this document](#)

[Report a problem](#)